

John J. Day

Indiana State Representative, District 100



June, 2001

Dear Friend:

The 112th Indiana General Assembly has concluded its work. The halls are quiet and I have time to think and to write about both the successes and shortcomings of the session.

As you know, our state's population grew over the past decade so our districts grew from 55,000 to 60,000 people. Those persons living in the Lockerbie area and the area west and north of Brookside Park, plus the neighborhoods just north and west of Emerson and Prospect now reside in District 100, and I am honored to be your representative. See the map inside.

Serving on the Ways and Means Committee gives me an opportunity to work on the budget. In this newsletter let me briefly review the budget plus projects for our district from the Build Indiana Fund (BIF).

From the BIF, schools in our district will receive \$85,000 for new library books, \$100,000 is allocated to build baseball and soccer fields at Willard Park and \$150,000 is in the budget to expand the Southeast Health Center on Shelby Street.

The four-year-old Individual Development Account program is renewed, plus a new law that will make it easier to obtain your driver's license.

Sometimes those of us in public office become discouraged or lose track of the reason we are in office. A recent visit by Ms. Levenson's fourth grade class from P.S. #54 to the Statehouse helped refocus my efforts.

These attractive children, full of innocence and wonder, with smiles and many questions, deserve a future filled with opportunity and hope. Their visit helped me rededicate myself to working for programs that provide an encouraging start in life for every child.

All the best,



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New budget has modest increase in school support and in the CHOICE program

From before the session started until the last day, the budget dominated our discussion. The \$900,000,000 shortfall from the earlier revenue forecast meant that several worthwhile programs would receive no increase or be reduced.

Certain mental health programs, services for people with developmental disabilities and non-English speaking programs that enable newcomers to be proficient in English are some examples of programs needing greater funding. Hopefully in a 2002 supplemental budget these concerns can be addressed.

On the plus side is a 2% increase in state support for I.P.S. and a \$6,000,000 increase in the CHOICE program - home health care for senior citizens and the disabled. CHOICE goes from \$42 million to \$48 million. The homestead credit at 10% has been extended for two more years and the earned income tax credit for low income working families continues through December 31, 2003.

Finally, note the budget chart. Spending for education is responsible for 50% of our budget.

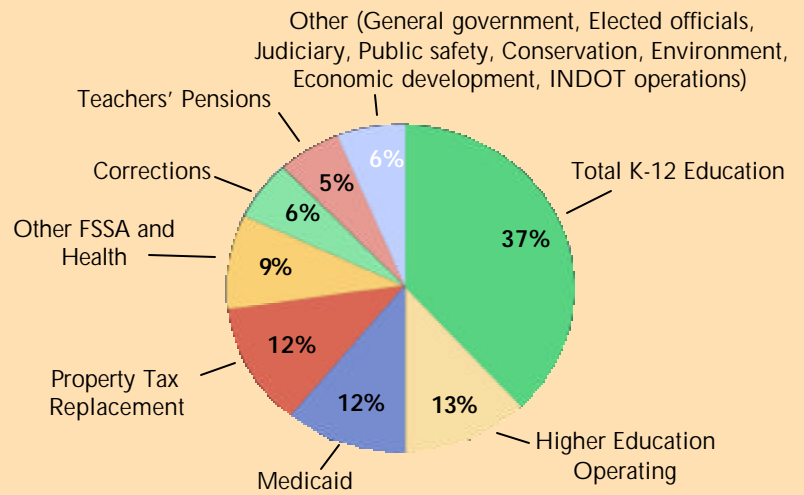
Obtaining driver's license made easier

A new law effective **January 1, 2002** will make it easier to get a driver's license. After January 1, the license can be obtained by regular mail or through the Internet, provided that:

- 1) The most recent license renewal was not by mail
- 2) The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has a photo or computerized image of the applicant on file
- 3) The applicant's eye test is also on file.

The new law will also make registration deadlines more manageable in that they will be at staggered times (not all on the same date).

Spending highlights from the 2001-2003 budget



Individual Development Accounts Program now permanent



REP. DAY WITH LT. GOV. JOE KERNAN

The IDA program established in 1997 as a four-year pilot program will now be permanent through recently enacted HB 2130. The purpose of the program is to encourage moderate and low income families to acquire assets through a state subsidized savings plan.

The money can be used to buy a home, attend college, obtain job training or start a small business. Since 1997 over 1,400 people have participated in the program.

Our IDA bill had wide bipartisan support (Rep. Mike Murphy, R-Indianapolis, was a co-sponsor) and approval by the O'Bannon-Kernan administration. Neighborhood Community Development Corporations (CDCs) manage the program with supervision by the Indiana Department of Commerce, headed by Lt. Gov. Kernan.

I am pleased to have sponsored the original 1997 bill and the renewal of it this year, and hope that a good number of families in our district will participate.



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Build Indiana Funds for our district

The Build Indiana Fund, financed by lottery profits, goes to various nonprofit organizations, schools and local units of government for capitol (building) projects and equipment.

From visiting schools, parks, health centers, libraries, community centers etc., I receive ideas for funding various projects in our district.

The following requests were made and approved in our new state budget.

Southeast Health Center, Shelby Street \$150,000

People's Health Center \$100,000

Willard Park, new baseball and soccer field \$100,000

Indianapolis Public Schools \$85,000

eight schools will receive \$10,000 each and one school \$5,000 for new school library books

Tech High School improve soccer practice field on Oriental Street \$30,000

YMCA, to purchase playground equipment at P.S. #14 and P.S. #15 where they operate programs \$25,000

Miracle Place, equipment for a neighborhood resource center \$10,000



Holy Cross Girls Basketball



I have helped coach the boys teams at Holy Cross for several years. In the past few years I have also coached some of the girls teams.

Here is a picture of our high school level CYO team for the 2000-2001 season. This team, easy to work with, had a fine season with a 6-3 record.

Back row, from left: Assistant Coach Maura Day, Maureen Day, Kandace Keller, Christina Caito, Katie Wallace, Teresa Day and me.

Front row: Jessica Stearns, Molly Wallace and Desiree Lolla. Not pictured is team member Jama Ashley.